

**Children's Justice Act Committee**  
**Thursday, April 18, 2019**  
**100 Community Place, Conference Room Side B**  
**Crownsville, MD 21032**  
**1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Participating Members:**

Arnold Eby, Immediate Past Chair  
Mary-Ann Burkhart, Anne Arundel County State's Attorney's Office  
Michelle Chudow, M.D., FAAP, Crimes Against Children Unit, Baltimore County  
Elizabeth Hall, Maryland Department of Disabilities  
Ed Kilcullen, Maryland CASA Association  
Senior Deputy Robert Kovacs, Harford County Sheriff's Office  
Shawn Mallet, Foster Youth Alumni  
Lieutenant Michael Peterson, Crimes Against Children Unit, Baltimore County  
Diane Shaffer, Volunteer, Child Advocate  
Krista Trahan, Baltimore County Department of Social Services, Crimes Against Children Unit

**Guests:**

Stephanie Cooke, Department of Human Services

**Staff:**

Mary Abraham, Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention  
Heather Amador, Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention  
Laurie Culkin, Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention  
Barbara Darley, Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention  
Dale Enzor, Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention  
William Jernigan, Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention  
Sabraya Knight, Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention  
Cierra Rodgers, Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention  
Alec Wheadan, Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention - Criminal Injuries  
Compensation Board  
Jessica Wheeler, Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

The meeting was called to order at 1:33 p.m. Members and guests introduced themselves.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

Sr. Deputy Kovacs made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Shaffer seconded the motion. All members were in favor and the minutes were approved.

### **III. Baltimore County's Strategy to Address Secondary Trauma**

Ms. Trahan and Lt. Peterson provide members with a presentation on the Baltimore County Child Advocacy Center's (CAC) strategy to reduce secondary trauma for investigators of child abuse and neglect. The CAC Wellness Training program, funded through CJAC funding, helps reduce existing gaps in services and fosters collaboration and cooperation. The program provides training and counseling for vicarious trauma in order to build resiliency of personnel and promote multidisciplinary team well-being.

### **IV. Department of Human Services Updates**

Ms. Cooke informed members that a Medical Director has been hired by the Department of Human Services. The Medical Director position was created during the 2018 Maryland General Assembly session.

In collaboration with federal agencies, the Department of Human Services will be participating in a week-long Performance Improvement Plan Strategic Planning session during the week of April 29, 2019.

### **V. Subcommittee Reports**

#### *A. Membership Subcommittee*

Ms. Wheeler informed members that there is one candidate for a vacant position that is awaiting approval by SCANN.

#### *B. Child Advocacy Center Best Practices Workgroup*

The workgroup is currently in the final stages of developing a statewide protocol for CACs to respond to child sex trafficking cases. In addition, the workgroup has surveyed the field to determine where gaps and barriers currently exist. Overall, there is a need for additional training on human trafficking.

#### *C. Prosecution Workgroup*

Ms. Wheeler provided members with an overview of the prosecution workgroup. The workgroup is studying the prosecutions of child sexual abuse cases in 14 jurisdictions across Maryland with an accredited CAC to determine barriers to prosecution as well as successes. A survey is currently underway and the workgroup hopes to present the findings by late summer.

### **VI. Maryland Children's Alliance Updates**

HB1007 passed during the 2019 Maryland General Assembly session, which requires further expansion of CACs and for the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention to ensure that every child in the State has access to a CAC. The passed legislation will assist in the goal of

having all CACs in the State of Maryland accredited.

Two CACs in Maryland will host the National Children's Alliance's Accreditation Team in May 2019 with the hopes of achieving accreditation status.

## **VII. Research Ideas**

Ms. Wheeler informed members of the Office's partnership with the University of Maryland and solicited ideas for areas of research in child abuse. Ms. Wheeler encouraged members to share their ideas by April 24.

## **VIII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:46 p.m.

**Next Meeting:**  
Annual Grant Review Session  
July 25, 2019  
12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032